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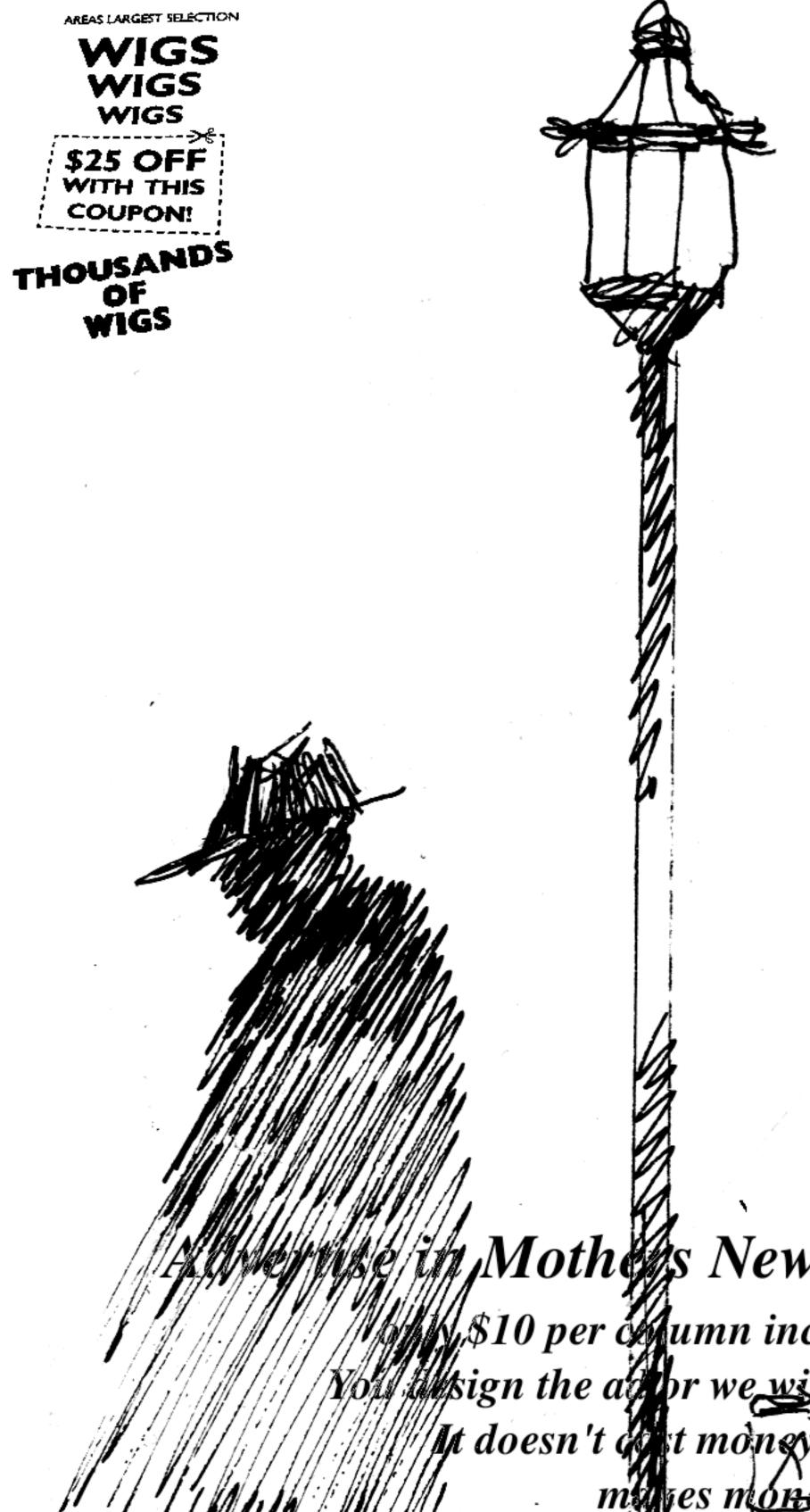


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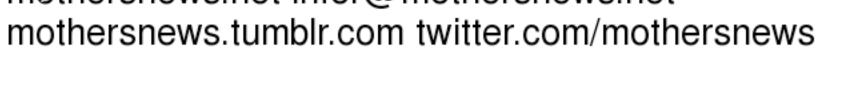


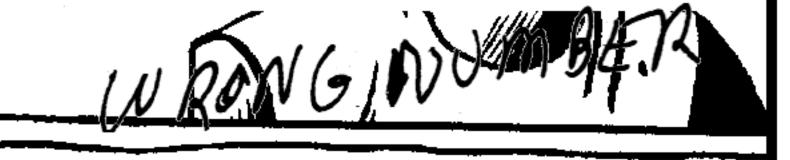


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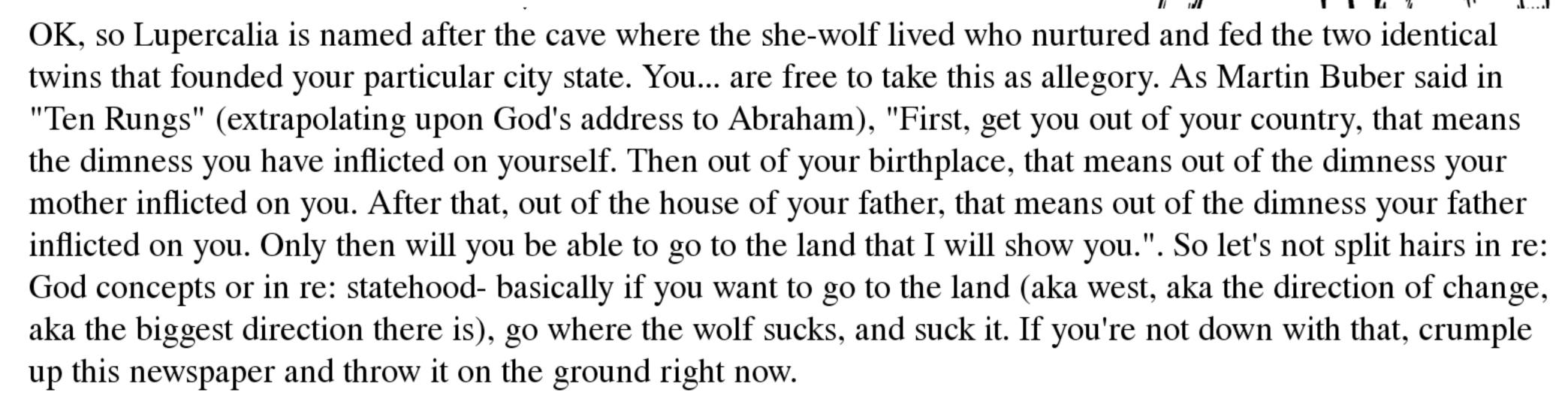


### HOLIDAYS IN FEBRUARY

Groundhog day is a real thing in which an animal arbiter is called in to decide when spring is going to "really" start. Will it be on Imbolc (the feast day of Brighid), or will it be on the proper vernal equinox? Noncompatible measurement protocols, calendrical intersections... this is the sort of othering bullshit that people cuss out their neighbors over- 10th century politicos had it right to defer to a common garden pest and be done with it!

The Lupercalis used to take place from the 13th to the 15th, when youths and magistrates would run bare ass naked through the town and (according to Plutarch) "strike those they meet with shaggy thongs" which is good luck for those struck. This went on FINE until the 5th century when Pope Gelasius I led a campaign against it, ending the luckiness of people. Now they got Valentine's Day on the 14th, that sucks.

### BRING BACK THE SHAGGY THONGS!



OK. Now that we've defined our terms, and we know, basically, what it is we're even celebrating (freedom from the known + general fertility), how do we go even celebrate Lupercalia? there's some dog sacrifice, for which I think hot dogs (or barring that, Devil Dogs) would suffice. There's some goat sacrifice, but I that's basically allegory too (GOAT = Greatest Of All Time). The important thing is that you race around almost naked, and you whip hangers-around with a piece of the sacrifice (which in the case of Devil Dogs would be a cellophane wrapper? I don't know, you'll have to improvise something). So you can either race around, or you can put yourself in harm's way and try to get struck (which is good luck and cures barrenness of all sorts). These are the ways to do it. Also, laughter plays some sort of key role. Also, this is kind of "duh", but "the origins [of Lupercalia] are lost in antiquity and may even predate civilization.". Which translates to "the human race has never needed an excuse to run around naked, any old excuse will do.". Again, this is February 13th to the 15th. If you are in high school you might get expelled for this, unless you ask your English teacher if you can do an extra project relating to Julius Caesar (act 1), then you'll get extra credit, or at least there will be extenuating circumstances.



THIS JUST IN

THEE AMBROSE BIERCE MEMORIAL WORD JUMBLE by Ambrose Bierce before he died

FRENCH SMALL DOG

To venerate expectantly.

BORTEREMA An ingenious instrument which indicates what kind of weather we are having.

ANOITLAR Devoid of all delusions save those of observation, experience and reflection.

#### SCENE REPORT: VACATION By Dan Ca\$hman

My family took me on a cruise not long ago. My old lifestyle caught up with me and a rotted tooth went into "shut Dan down" mode, and I was unable to have fun/drink/zone out for most of the trip. So I'm just gonna make a quick little record of things I did/saw/had happen to me while on this toothdecay trip.

Before departure, I took a long walk in Fort Lauderdale. Passing a rock with Sade playing out of it at our hotel, I felt kind of at home. Then after passing the Sade-rock, I put on my headphones and listened to Coletrane's Ascension. Then I felt alien. On the ship I saw a couple almost Hi-top fades on some middle aged men, it made me feel really happy and at home.

I sang kareoke as much as I could. The book, which had lots of typo's listed "The Message" under "Grandmother Flash." No joke. No "Strokin" on this kareoke unfortunately, so I was building up to "Unwritten" by Natasha B. I do a pretty intense version of that. I filled the time doing all the old rap hits...this led to lots of people giving me high fives and votes of confidence along the lines of "Nice job with Mama Said Knock You Out last night!" As I walked this deck of 3000 strangers. But the height was a little white old southern lady asking me: "Are you a professional rapppperrrrr?" I told her that I definitely was not.

The dance club on the ship had some of the most hilarious decor I've ever seen. Giant white hands and feet sticking out of the floor with bad Ed Hardy-esque tattoos. They were really huge limbs, and the white reflected all the light so it was bright, bright, bright in there. And I really would hate to be a DJ stuck doing top 40 now...cuz apparently even people who like things like top 40 now, don't seem to like anything but 2 or 3 songs.

So then I read lots of Conan stories (barbarian literature) and an old issue of Cinemafantasique from 1988, and listened to lots of Loren Mazzacane Connors. Listened to the complete "Bitches Brew" sessions while watching Pandas play on the TV. The kareoke boss asked me to sing as James Brown in the show at the end of the cruise. I politely declined. Ha, Soul Brother number 1? More like honorary soul guy number 108,597.

But man, my tooth was killing me...it's gone now though!









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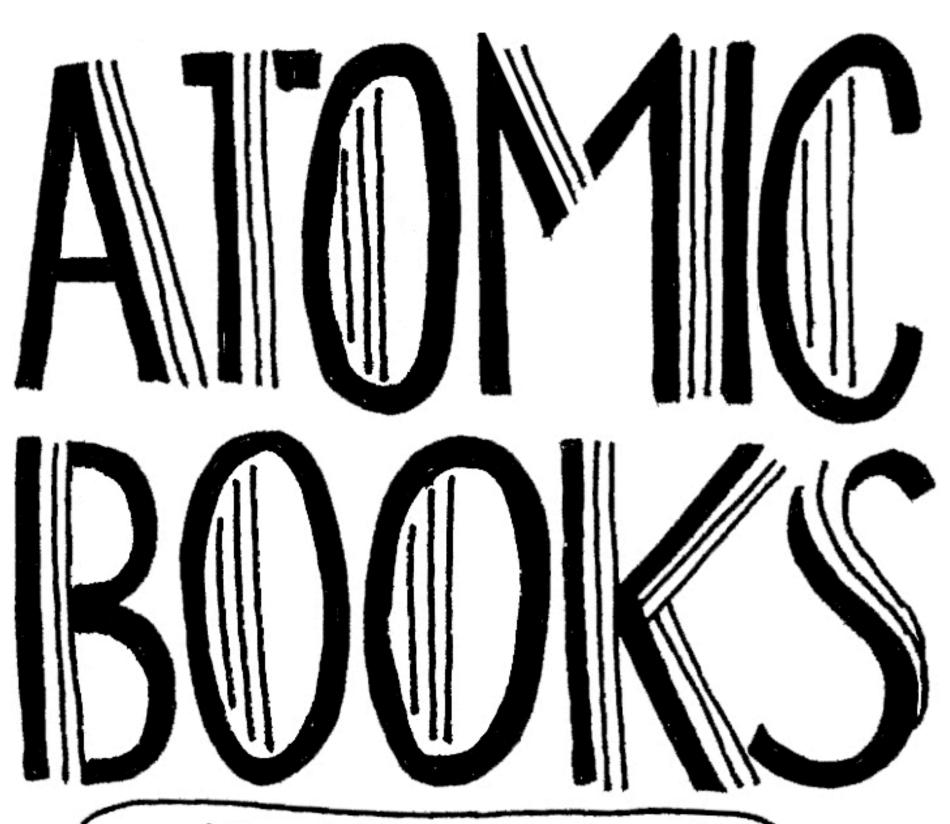
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ETC.

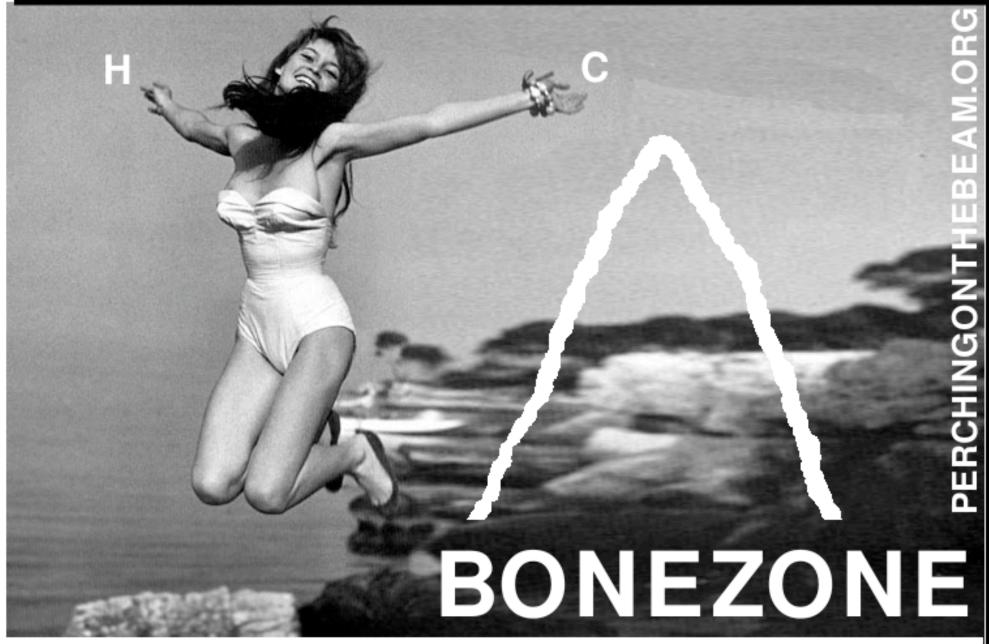




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Psst! February's password is "DULCET". If anyone asks you for Mother's Good Word, that's what it is. February only! if you need a publicly available password for however purpose, and you need it to



## BIOGRAPHY: AMELIA EARHART

Amelia Earhart (1897 - ????) was the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean, amidst other accomplishments. She grew up tumbling around, climbing trees, shooting at rats with a rifle, wearing pants, reading poetry, having surgeries for sinusitis because antibiotics hadn't been invented yet, playing the banjo, building a roller coaster in her back yard, sewing her own clothes, sleeping in a leather jacket so it'd look worn in, being an editor at Cosmopolitan magazine, and cutting her hair short. She more or less continued to do so until a tragic flight circumnavigating the world, from which she did not return (to the world). There is evidence (a knife, a finger) that she landed on Nikumaroro (formerly Gardner Island), in the western Pacific Ocean. The finger is currently (February 2011) being tested somehow. This is perhaps the last month to truly savor the complete non-mystery of a plane going down in the ocean in a dawning aviation age. It will be impossible not to pore over every detail, should the details ever emerge, but let's spend a few minutes in idle contemplation of the best still quite possible outcomedrinking out of a coconut, shoeless, your skeleton bleaching in the sun, being found by a British officer, your skeleton being flown to Fiji and lost in a warehouse somehow, a single fingerbone showing up later, and there's new technology; also, cameo in "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" (1977). Ssssssssssssip!



## LANGUAGE LAB: JAPANESE

JAPANESE is a fun language that's all around you already, a casual trope is that Japan is basically the future, and that sooner or later, that future-dense, flashing, shrill, hyper-stylized, littered with agriculture-era human relics and plastic teenagers, and with a sense of beauty that extends beyond the fading of that beauty, will subsume all active empires and sprawlconomies. You already know some Japanese: "atari" means "bingo!" and "nintendo" means "leave luck to Heaven". That's almost enough to get over in our farcical 1985-era 2011 megalopolis, but here's some more words and phrases for good measure (written phonetically with accents).

- HISHhi no PATCHideh- "you work hard, and then [word that sounds nice following 'you work hard' (basically 'you know')]". This is what you say, shrugging, when you pause pushing a huge thing down the street, passing another huge thing street pauser/shrugger, for no gain. A real "these dogs been barking all day" Dad comedy line.
- fuTONGga futTONda "flying mattress". This is a nonsense joke that children like.
- shiiiinnnnnn The sound of nothing happening. A positively charged negative sound space, like the kind of quiet one says is "too quiet" or the old "you want me to say something but for whatever reason it is not getting said, not by me, not now". The sound of three dots.
- CHIkuSHOhhh- "shee-it". This is distinct from just "shit" in that it is never completely a surprise, but an unvoiced premonition you didn't want to call into (or jinx out of) existence. Can be used to mean like a "shoulda" known better" kind of bad or a slow-burn good like a "pretty woman walking back to me"-type scenario. Like "shee-it", this is just the word "shit" with a humoristic delay transformation.
- MONdai nai- "no problem". To remember this, think "Monday night". This is also a good way to feel good about a monday night.

Sakiko Mori contributed to this report

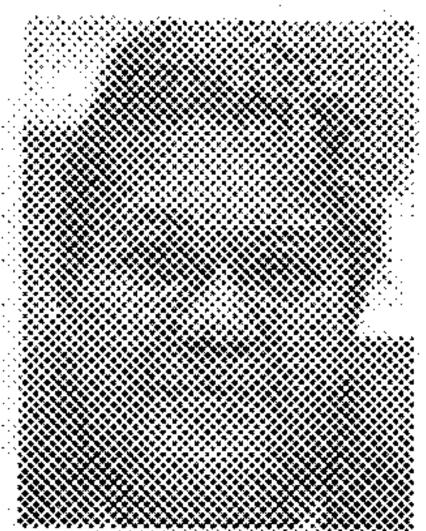


### MORE POEMS

Valentines Day special edition

Go to science fiction conventions. Hang out with my friends, play music all night, eat

RIP: Anne Francis, Verne Langdon, Jack LaLanne, Bhimsen Joshi



too much food. Science fiction freaks are very romantic.

Chris Benders, Worcester

## 605519 SECTION by Josephine Mendes

SCULLY got fired from his job as the minor league sports mascot after a feud with the hypeman, Peterman. I guess that guy's an IRL dingus. speaking of the economy, JONATHAN MOSCA (aka "Moccasin Jontha") finally got a job, congratulations! he's working for a right wing candidate giving "liberal" movies 1 star reviews in Netflix, but really all he does is eat jellybeans and play "angry birds". Coooooooool... Hey, remember when DIEGO PEREZ had that little dog that was ALSO named "Diego Perez"? What happened to that dog? They had such a good routine... JENNY HOLZER friended me on Facebook but then just kept responding to shit with published truisms. I thought at first that it was a robot account, but I think there's a real person doing it? Still might be fake... or boring... Kind of like that time I interviewed BILL GRIFFITH and he just read stuff from a t-shirt catalog... Kind of the other side of the coin but I saw XANDER MUREAU the other day, she said "idearrhia" meaning "someone who talks too much about ideas and doesn't do any/enough of them". What a valuable word! ...MICKEY ZACCHILLI hates ham, jazz, and outer space. I never thought it would be so easy to hang out with someone who hated outer space! and speaking of mind-benders, ANNA MULLIGAN and CHRIS MULLIGAN are not related! seriously! FARLEY MARKS is in the Philippines right now, he got a RISCA grant to find/test "the perfect cargo shorts". Pretty cool. And JONES CHANDLER? Last I saw him was at the bar at the PENTAGRAM show trying to trade a DVD of Lethal Weapon for 2 (two!) beers. GOOD LUCK!

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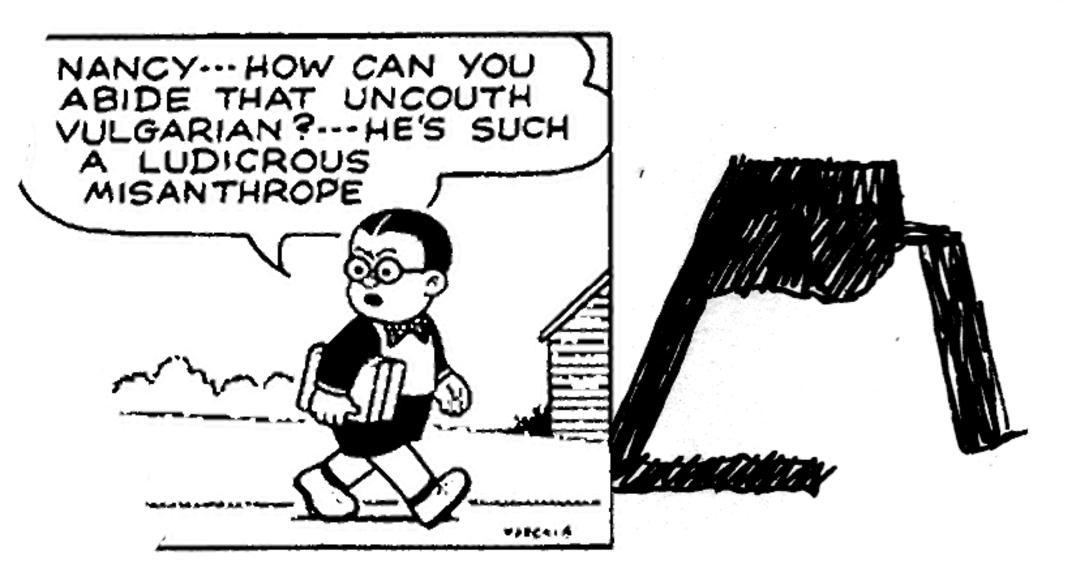
Pub Com ad by Cybele Collins. White Electric ad by Zickey (obv). Miscellaneous spots by CF. Tom & Mickey as sloths and Shea'la as a wolf by Jo Dery. Ambrose Bierce trying to feed a french fry to a Chihuahua by James McShane. Nancy by Ernie Bushmiller. Ada books ad by Sako. Sako's glasses by Jackie H Curtiss BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY: 14th: Jack Benny, Frederick Douglass, Murray the K. 21st: Jo Dery. 17th: Ai Isshiki. 28th: Nicholas Reville.

#### TIPS NTRICKS

Any boor will tell you that "true" altruism isn't "real"- that single-celled organisms do it, that hives of robots and mole rats do it (separate hives), that there are mathematical proofs in favor of its efficiency as a strategy, that you are nice because you expect a return on your investment. Well, all that stuff is true, but I can't see that as a bad thing. The fact of the matter is that you get more flies with honey than vinegar, AND FURTHERMORE honey is delicious. Why, given honey, would you choose the non-honey option? OK, ok- vinegar aids digestion. NONETHELESS, a little please and thank you will get you far and anyway it won't hurt you (unless that's all you know).

Anyway it's still winter, and we've all been beaten pretty down by January, which was a totally weird time. There's snow everywhere, there's more coming, and we don't know even where we're going to put it. It might SEEM like SO MUCH more effort to be EXTRA NICE to people at the supermarket or whatever, but this is like when you're tired, and you get exercise, then you have more energy. Let hear some "please"s, some "thank you"s, some "allow me"s, and some "after you"s out there!

this etiquette column idea suggested by ZANE. THANK YOU BASED ECONOMY



#### MOTHERS TOP TEN

1. ARTHUR RUSSELL "Calling out of Context". An almost unbelievable feeling for this time of year, like trying to remember that in a few short months you'll be walking around at night with a t-shirt on.

2. A CLEAN ROOM. Starting to feel like "a clean room and a nice playlist" is the 2011 equivalent of "a long enough lever and a place to stand".

3. DAN CA\$HMAN art show at Feeding Tube Records in NoHam. The art show was called "I Spent A Lot Of Time On

4. BLOGS; David Berman, Ghostface, and Justin "Binky Brown" Green have cool blogs now. not facebooks or twitters OK, BLOGS. The open web!

5. Nancy reprints on Kitchen Sink Press. Out of print and getting hard to find, they appear on the internet sometimes for triple digits, but that's "appear", not "sell". Diligence rewards the thrifty fan-- eventually they are all \$8 including shipping. They are arranged thematically- "Beatniks, Bums & Hippies", "Nancy Eats Food", "How Does Sluggo Survive". Yes, the jokes repeat over and over again, but not because Bushmiller was a hack, because the steam turbine was invented several times independantly throughout the world at the same time, and sometimes a person's mind is a world and sometimes "Toilet Plunger Concept #5" is a steam turbine.

6. WORMS. They aerate our soil, catch our fish, gross out our crushes, and feed our songbirds. Right now they are asleep in large balls deep in the earth. Or they are writing in coffee grounds in a large tupperware container under your sink. Either way.

7. KOOKIE #1. Another great "beatsploitation" comic (c. 1962) about a young city woman working in a freaky deaky cappuccino shop. Writ by John Stanley! And like all John Stanley comics, there is real love in this, and wonderful eccentrics. Seeking issue #2 (of 2).

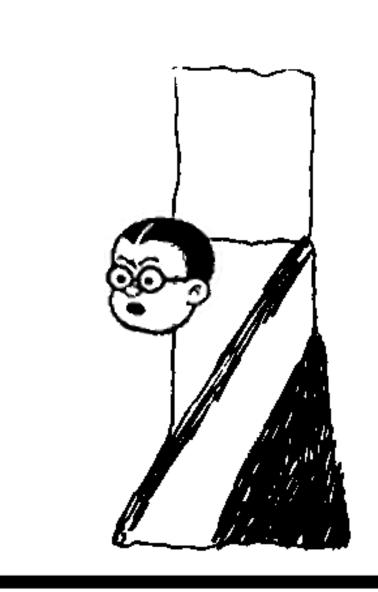
#### 8. GORGORATH

9. VIDEO GAMES. My roommate has this bootleg xbox preloaded with 500+ NES games, including a version of Super Mario where all the characters are redrawn as penises and the explosions are British flags. It is after the end of the world.

10. TEA WITH MILK. This is the winter version of Coca Cola with milk









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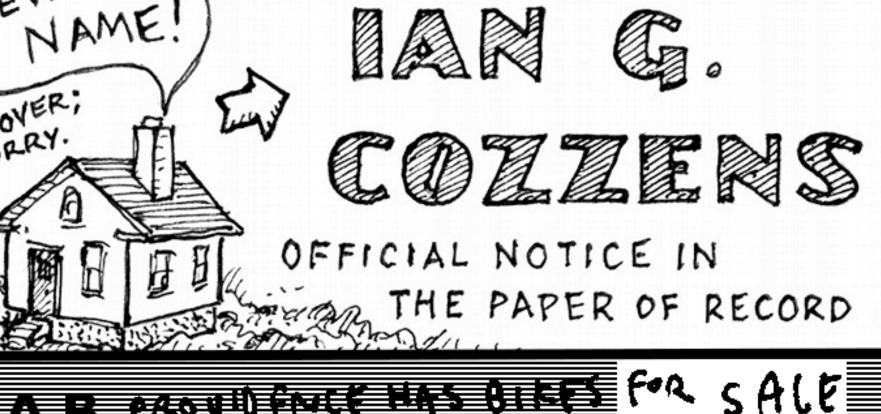


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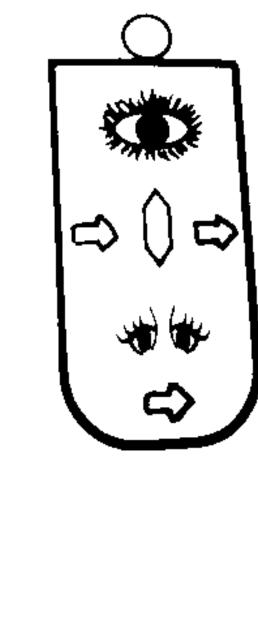
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## SHOUTOUTS

Shout out from Mike T to Cynthia "Wrecking Cru" Reed for being top notch , ...: 24/7! Crusherrrr!!!!

RRRROOOOOOGGGGGGIIIOOOHHHH!!!!! to thethirtheen FIENDS.... COUNT ZERO solid state operator..... SOUTH END CONTROL just got DOWN..... waving a hand to HI HAT, RAW DOG, HOBGOBLIN and 666..... no dust on the microphone and COUNT ZERO'S BACK OUT!!!!!!!! RRRRRROOOGGGIIOOHHH!!!

HaPpY 22 ESP-HERE COMES THA HOT OVEN! LOVE completed triad, ...: -AS

send your shoutouts to be printed next issue via the website mothersnews.net or our PO box.

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#### CORRECTIONS

In January we correctly attributed the winky-frown emoticon even though it did not appear in that issue. ;( In December we made fun of Tim Hecker but meant to make fun of Florian Hecker. ;(

